United Nations A/CONF.215/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 December 2009

Original: English

Nairobi
1-3 December 2009

Report of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

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I. Resolutions adopted by the Conference

Resolution 1*
Draft Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

The High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Having met at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009,

1. *Adopts* the draft Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it endorse, during its sixty-fourth session, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.[1]

Annex
Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

1. We, heads of delegations and high representatives of Governments, gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1 to 3 December 2009 at the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1978 United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Buenos Aires, which produced the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[2]

2. We recognize and contribute to the goal of the Conference to strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation.

3. We recall and renew our commitments to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and all General Assembly resolutions relevant to South-South and triangular cooperation.

4. We note the outcomes of the South Summits of the Group of 77 and other relevant South meetings.

5. We recognize the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in promoting South-South cooperation.

6. We take note of relevant processes and dialogues related to enhancing South-South cooperation.

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* Adopted at the 5th meeting, on 3 December 2009; for the discussion, see chap. VI.

[1] Subsequently, the General Assembly endorsed the outcome document in its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

7. Since the Buenos Aires meeting, the increasing economic dynamism of some developing countries in recent years has imparted greater energy to South-South cooperation, including through regional integration initiatives across the developing world, seen in, among other things, the creation of regional common markets, custom unions, cooperation in political fields, institutional and regulatory frameworks, and inter-State transport and communications networks. In that regard, we recognize the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries with a view to supporting their development efforts, including in the context of South-South and triangular cooperation.

8. At the same time, we duly note that many developing countries continue to face serious development challenges and that many of them are not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

9. We stress that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

10. We reaffirm the key role of the United Nations, including its funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, in supporting and promoting cooperation among developing countries, while reiterating that every country has the primary responsibility for its own development. We reaffirm resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, endorsing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, which constitutes a major milestone in the evolution of South-South and triangular cooperation.

11. We recognize the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and we reaffirm our view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

12. We recognize that South-South cooperation takes different and evolving forms, including, inter alia, the sharing of knowledge and experience, training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation and in kind contributions.

13. We recognize the need to enhance local capacity in developing countries by supporting local capabilities, institutions, expertise and human resources and national systems, where appropriate, in contribution to national development priorities, at the request of developing countries.

14. We stress that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

15. We recognize the value of the increasing support provided by developed countries, international organizations and civil society to developing countries, upon their request, in improving their expertise and national capacities through triangular cooperation mechanisms, including direct support or cost-sharing arrangements,

joint research and development projects, third-country training programmes and support for South-South centres, as well as by providing the necessary knowledge, experience and resources, so as to assist other developing countries, in accordance with their national development priorities and strategies.

16. We welcome efforts by multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and development institutions to increase financial resources to promote South-South cooperation, where appropriate, including for the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition.

17. We recognize that developing countries tend to share common views on national development strategies and priorities when faced with similar development challenges. The proximity of experience is therefore a key catalyst in promoting capacity development in developing countries and, in this regard, accentuates the principles of South-South cooperation. It is important to enhance South-South cooperation in order to fulfil its full development potential.

18. We reaffirm that South-South cooperation is a common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, born out of shared experiences and sympathies, based on their common objectives and solidarity, and guided by, inter alia, the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, free from any conditionalities. South-South cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance. It is a partnership among equals based on solidarity. In that regard, we acknowledge the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities. We also recognize that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner.

19. South-South cooperation embraces a multi-stakeholder approach, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other actors that contribute to meeting development challenges and objectives in line with national development strategies and plans.

20. In order to realize the potential of South-South cooperation in accordance with its principles and to attain the objectives of supporting national and regional development efforts, strengthening institutional and technical capacities, improving the exchange of experience and know-how among developing countries, responding to their specific development challenges and increasing the impact of international cooperation, we:

(a) Welcome the achievements made by developing countries towards promoting South-South cooperation initiatives and invite them to continue to intensify their efforts in this regard;

(b) Invite developed countries to support South-South cooperation through triangular cooperation, including for capacity development;

(c) Encourage developing countries to develop country-led systems to evaluate and assess the quality and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation programmes and improve data collection at the national level to promote cooperation in the development of methodologies and statistics to this end, as appropriate, while bearing in mind the specific principles and unique

characteristics of South-South cooperation, and encourage all actors to support initiatives for information and data collection, coordination, dissemination and evaluation of South-South cooperation, upon the request of developing countries;

(d) Also encourage developing countries to enhance their national coordination mechanisms, as appropriate, in order to improve South-South and triangular cooperation through the dissemination of results, the sharing of lessons and good practices, and replication, including through the voluntary exchange of experiences for the benefit of developing countries, and according to their policies and priorities for development;

(e) Recognize that interrelated global crises, in particular the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices, the food crisis, poverty and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as other challenges, including communicable and non-communicable diseases, are already reversing the gains achieved in developing countries and hence require action at all levels. In this regard, we invite developed countries and multilateral institutions to enhance their support for South-South cooperation to contribute to addressing these challenges;

(f) Emphasize the need to promote, including through South-South cooperation, access to and the transfer of technology. In that regard, we welcome efforts made by developing countries in improving technology cooperation arrangements, such as the Consortium on Science, Technology and Innovation for the South. We also emphasize the need to promote, through South-South cooperation, broader technological developments such as technological management capabilities and information networks that are demand-oriented and involve participation by users of technology or by those involved in the process of technological development, infrastructure and human resources development;

(g) Call for the strengthening of various interregional dialogues and the exchange of experience among subregional and regional economic groupings for the purpose of expanding South-South cooperation by integrating the various approaches to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;

(h) Acknowledge the various national, regional and subregional initiatives to enhance South-South cooperation in the social (particularly health and education), economic, environmental, technical and political fields;[3]

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[3] For example, Cuba's "Miracle Operation" and "Yes, I can do it" initiatives; the Programmes of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa; the Programmes of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States, European Islamic Countries and Newly Independent Countries; the Horizontal Cooperation Programme of the International Cooperation Agency of Chile; the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme; India's Pan-African e-Network Project; the Bank of the South; the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation; the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme; the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement; Proyecto Mesoamérica; the Mexico-Chile Joint Cooperation Fund; the initiative "Oil and Gas Development: Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned within the Framework of South-South Cooperation"; Qatar's South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance; Brazil's Strategic Programme in the Areas of Food Security and Agriculture with Haiti; the Brazil-International Labour Organization triangular programme to fight child labour; the initiative of the United Arab Emirates in the field of renewable and alternative energy and clean technology; the Uruguayan Fund for International Cooperation; the Mexico-Uruguay Joint Cooperation Fund; Nigeria's South-South Health Care

(i) Recognize regional mechanisms and initiatives for infrastructure cooperation and integration, including in the energy field, based on solidarity and complementarity, to overcome asymmetries with regard to access to energy resources;

(j) Recognize that international support for South-South cooperation in trade, investment and other areas can be catalytic in strengthening and consolidating regional and subregional economic integration and take note of the São Paulo round of negotiations relating to the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries in order to reinvigorate and strengthen the agreement in general, promote greater interregional trade, diversify export markets and enhance investment flows among them.

21. We acknowledge the need to reinvigorate the United Nations development system in supporting and promoting South-South cooperation. To this effect, we:

(a) Urge the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to take concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South and triangular cooperation to help developing countries, at their request and with their ownership and leadership, to develop capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Call upon the United Nations funds and programmes and invite the specialized agencies to continue to enhance the capacities of developing countries to develop and formulate development cooperation programmes, strengthen the capacities of regional and subregional organizations and conduct research to identify areas where support for South-South cooperation will have the greatest impact;

(c) Call upon the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue to focus and coordinate their operational activities in support of South-South cooperation, in accordance with national development plans and their respective mandates, and to produce practical results, taking into account South-South characteristics and approaches;

(d) Call, furthermore, on United Nations regional commissions to play a catalytic role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation and in strengthening their technical, policy and research support for countries of their regions;

(e) Welcome the recent initiatives by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other United Nations specialized agencies to establish, within their respective mandates, new units and work programmes to support and promote South-South cooperation, and

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Delivery Programme; the Nigeria Trust Fund; the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps scheme; the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership; the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation; the Africa-India Partnership; the Africa-South America Summit; the New Partnership for Africa's Development; the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation; the Ibero-American Programme for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation; the Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation; the Kenya-Africa-Japan Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education project; the Regional Cooperation Meeting of the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; and the Brazil-Japan agricultural development project in Mozambique.

request United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, as well as regional commissions, to help developing countries establish or strengthen existing South-South centres of excellence, within their respective areas of competence, and enhance closer cooperation among such centres of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern;

(f) Encourage such institutions and centres of excellence, as well as regional and subregional economic groupings, to establish closer links among themselves, with the support of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, including through its Global South-South Development Academy, Global South-South Development Expo and South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange;

(g) Reaffirm the mandate of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis;

(h) Call for the effective implementation of the UNDP fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation and, in this regard, encourage Member States in a position to do so to support UNDP and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in fully implementing this framework;

(i) Invite the Secretary-General, in consultation with States Members of the United Nations, to take measures to further strengthen the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 58/220, 60/212 and 62/209, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through the mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation;

(j) Reaffirm the relevance of the previously established Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in conducting and managing South-South cooperation. We therefore call for their full implementation and recognize the need for their continued improvement, in particular in strengthening the capacity of UNDP and United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to promote and support South-South cooperation, as well as further develop the specific framework of operational guidelines to facilitate the use of technical cooperation among developing countries in their programmes and projects;

(k) Emphasize that South-South cooperation needs adequate support from the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including through triangular cooperation, and call upon all relevant United Nations organizations to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, as appropriate;

(l) Recognize the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South cooperation and, in this context, invite all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation through, inter alia, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation. In this context, we encourage the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to undertake additional

resource mobilization initiatives to attract more financial and in kind resources, while avoiding the proliferation and fragmentation of financing arrangements. In this regard, we reaffirm that regular resources will continue to fund the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, and invite the UNDP Executive Board to consider measures to allocate adequate resources for the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

22. We convey our appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Kenya and its people for the excellent organization and hosting of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the warm hospitality extended to us in the city of Nairobi.

Resolution 2*
Credentials of representatives to the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

The High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Having considered the report of its Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

II. Plenary meetings

A. Opening of the Conference

1. The Conference was opened on 1 December 2009 by Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

B. Election of the President of the Conference

2. The Conference elected by acclamation Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Minister of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 of Kenya, as President of the Conference.

C. Adoption of the rules of procedure

3. At its 1st meeting, on 1 December, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure as contained in document A/64/507 and Corr.1.

D. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

4. At its 1st meeting, on 1 December, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda (A/64/507 and Corr.1), which read as follows:

* Adopted at the 5th meeting, on 3 December 2009; for the discussion, see chap. V.

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President of the Conference.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (a) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
7. General debate on the theme of the Conference: Promotion of South-South cooperation for development.
8. Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference.
9. Interactive round tables under the overall theme "Promotion of South-South cooperation for development", focusing on the main issues before the Conference:
   (a) Strengthening the role of the United Nations system in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation (round table 1);
   (b) South-South and triangular cooperation for development: complementarities, specificities, challenges and opportunities (round table 2).
10. Report of the Chairpersons of the round tables.
11. (a) Adoption of the outcome document of the Conference;
    (b) Adoption of the report of the Conference.
12. Closing of the Conference.

E. Election of officers other than the President

5. At its 1st and 4th meetings, on 1 and 2 December, the Conference elected the following Vice-Presidents: Benin, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Nepal, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Morocco and Poland.

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Conference elected Raymond Landveld (Suriname) as its Rapporteur-General.

F. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

7. At its 1st meeting, on 1 December, the Conference appointed the following as members of its Credentials Committee: Brazil, China, Jamaica, Philippines, Russian Federation, Spain, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Zambia.

8. At its 5th meeting, on 3 December, the Credentials Committee submitted its report (A/CONF.215/L.2) to the Conference, which in turn took note of the report.

III. General debate on the theme of the Conference: Promotion of South-South cooperation for development

1. Under agenda item 7, from 1 to 3 December 2009, the Conference held a general exchange of views on South-South and triangular cooperation.

2. The general debate offered a multifaceted view of the evolution of South-South cooperation over the past three decades. There was general appreciation of the importance of such cooperation in the individual and collective pursuit of sustained and sustainable economic growth by developing countries, and of the need to strengthen and further invigorate its processes, including through its support by developed countries and the United Nations system.

3. Representatives noted that the holding of the 30-year review Conference was recognition of the importance of South-South cooperation and of its tremendous potential. It was part of a continuing effort to reorient development cooperation to new and evolving international circumstances and would contribute to the evolving architecture for development cooperation.

4. Representatives of developing countries noted that the outcome documents of the two South Summits convened by the Group of 77 (Havana, in 2000 and Doha, in 2005), the Marrakech Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation and the Yamoussoukro Consensus on South-South Cooperation constituted a comprehensive framework for continuing efforts by developing countries to resolve their shared problems. The Non-Aligned Movement had placed South-South cooperation high on its agenda at its previous summit (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, July 2009). Representatives of developed countries also noted the importance of the Conference in configuring South-South cooperation to new international circumstances. South-South cooperation was viewed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as a new and significant factor in international development cooperation.

5. South-South cooperation was seen as vital in reshaping global institutions that did not reflect the important role and new weight of developing countries in world affairs. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council therefore had to be revitalized.

6. There was general recognition of a broad dichotomy among developing countries since the 1978 United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries: some were on a path of growing economic dynamism while most continued to face serious developmental challenges. Whereas the former had reshaped the geography of world trade, many countries were currently not on track to achieve even the basic anti-poverty goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In the meantime, interrelated financial and economic crises affecting global markets, volatile energy and food prices, and the spread of diseases had reversed gains made by developing countries and increased poverty levels. It was estimated that the current global economic crisis had pushed over 125 million people back into extreme poverty.

7. The solidarity of the economically dynamic developing countries with those facing acute developmental challenges had energized South-South cooperation and increased political, economic and institutional linkages between Southern countries, especially through regional integration mechanisms such as common markets,

customs unions, regulatory frameworks and the creation of inter-State transport and communications networks.

8. Governments recognized that cooperation between developing countries supplemented rather than substituted for cooperation with developed countries. As a manifestation of the solidarity of the peoples and countries of the South reflecting the shared particularities of their historical experiences, South-South cooperation was a partnership of equals and should not be seen as official development assistance. It was for developing countries to set the agenda for such cooperation, guided by their own priorities and plans and the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, independence, equality and mutual benefit, without conditionalities or interference in the internal affairs of countries.

9. It was within that framework that the effectiveness of South-South cooperation had to be assessed. Representatives noted the need for developing countries to lead the effort to evaluate and assess the quality and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation. To that end, there was a need to improve data collection at the national, regional and interregional levels. It was also necessary to promote cooperation and coordination in collecting and disseminating information and developing statistical and assessment methodologies. It was recognized that enhancing South-South cooperation was necessary to realize its full potential. One representative said that there was a need to adopt a forward-looking approach to South-South cooperation; that would have to be based on analyses of what worked and what did not work. Another dismissed calls for the evaluation of South-South cooperation on the same basis as that of North-South development assistance; the two were conceptually entirely distinct.

10. Representatives of developed countries said that there was inadequate documentation on what actually worked in South-South cooperation, which was "one of many instruments" for development; its "methodological framework" needed to be elaborated, and there was a need for a better understanding of its particularities, potential and impact. One developed-country representative noted that, although information about the nature, scope and volume of South-South cooperation was inadequate, such cooperation was valued at $12 billion per annum. The growing importance of South-South cooperation required that greater attention be paid to its effectiveness. Countries were urged to adhere to the principles of aid effectiveness contained in the Paris Declaration of 2005 and the subsequent Accra Agenda for Action. Those principles included strengthening national ownership, supporting national development strategies, aligning aid with host-country institutions and systems, suitably dividing labour between development actors, and improving accountability and transparency.

11. One representative mentioned that the forthcoming high-level event on South-South cooperation and capacity development (Colombia, March 2010) and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council (New York, July 2010) would offer an opportunity to carry forward discussions on aid effectiveness. Another noted that the synergies between aid-effectiveness principles and South-South practices could be considered further in discussions at the fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Republic of Korea, 2011). It was also noted by one representative that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation established by the General Assembly was the appropriate forum for discussing and deciding those matters.

12. A number of representatives noted that commitments made at major United Nations conferences remained unimplemented, in particular the pledges made to the least developed, the landlocked and the small island developing countries. The United Nations system was called upon to explore how those commitments could be implemented. The importance of promoting access to and transfer of technology was stressed, and the need to develop capacity to manage technology was noted. Demand-oriented information networks were needed to involve participants in the development, management and use of technologies and relevant infrastructure and human resources. Developed countries and multilateral institutions were urged to increase support for South-South cooperation aimed at tackling those challenges.

13. Representatives looked to the strengthening of South-South cooperation as a response to a plethora of issues. Included were: restructuring of the international financial architecture; rescuing the world from the current global financial and economic crisis; and meeting such challenges as terrorism, climate change, food and energy security, migration and environmental conservation. Cooperation between developing countries was also being directed at a range of positive developmental activities, from promoting ecotourism to the training of diplomats.

14. Representatives noted the multi-stakeholder nature of South-South cooperation, which involved Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and others. They pointed to the need for greater mutual accountability and transparency to underpin increased coordination and improved results, as appropriate.

15. Representatives acknowledged that there were various national, subregional and regional initiatives to promote South-South cooperation and called for greater dialogue and exchange of experiences to increase their coherence. That need was particularly acute with regard to social development, especially health and education, and in the fields of economic, environmental, technical and political cooperation. To overcome asymmetries in access to energy resources, representatives drew attention to the role of regional mechanisms and initiatives for cooperation on infrastructure development. A variation on regional cooperation was an agreement between developed countries on a partnership programme to support jointly their neighbouring developing countries, in particular those with commonalities of language, history and culture, among other things.

16. There were also several initiatives linking countries with the largest economies — both developed and developing — to Africa as a whole. Another tri-regional initiative linked three large developing countries in a cooperative arrangement to benefit not only themselves but also the least developed countries. African and Asian countries had agreed on a strategic partnership of regions that built on relationships dating back to the Bandung Asia-Africa Conference of 1955.

17. Representatives recognized the catalytic role of South-South cooperation in trade and investment in building and consolidating regional and subregional integration. Many stressed the importance of subregional and regional integration frameworks for cooperation in areas ranging from agriculture and industry to trade and investment, transport, energy development, tourism, and development and use of human resources. Increased connectivity was important not just in trade, transport and communications but also in the movement and empowerment of people. At the interregional level, they noted the importance, for countries of the South, of the São

Paulo round of negotiations relating to the Generalized System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries.

18. The value of increased support for South-South cooperation from developed countries was recognized as was the key role of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes in building the technical and technological capacities of developing countries. Representatives welcomed the efforts of financial and development institutions at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels to increase resources for South-South cooperation. They called upon United Nations regional commissions to play a catalytic role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.

19. In calling upon the United Nations system to mainstream support for South-South cooperation, representatives appealed for greater support for building institutional capacity in developing countries to identify optimum areas for cooperation and formulate joint programmes. They welcomed recent initiatives by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen support for South-South cooperation. In their respective areas of expertise, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes were requested to help developing countries to establish centres of excellence and networks to improve information flows.

20. Representatives urged greater support for and the strengthening of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which served as the secretariat for the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and prepared the reports of the United Nations Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation that were submitted every two years to the General Assembly. There were also calls for the effective implementation of the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (2009-2011) approved by the UNDP/United Nations Population Fund Executive Board. The Special Unit was requested to help to mobilize resources for South-South cooperation and promote greater subregional and regional linkages through its Global South-South Development Academy, the Global South-South Development Expo and the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange.

21. In calling for increased commitment of resources for South-South cooperation, representatives appealed for more direct support from developed countries, cost-sharing arrangements, funding of joint research and development projects, third-country training programmes, arrangements to exchange experience and share knowledge, and the establishment of institutional hubs for outreach and enhanced cooperation. One representative suggested that developing countries should put road safety on the South-South agenda. The first ministerial meeting on road safety had been held in Moscow in November 2009 and the need for developing countries to act had become clear. Road accidents accounted for the deaths of 1.8 million people annually and imposed a cost of $110 billion on developing countries, more than twice the level of the development assistance that they received.

22. The Conference also heard from representatives of several intergovernmental organizations. The representative of a summit-level regional initiative presented a progress report on what work had been done on poverty reduction in conjunction with European countries. The representative of an organization dealing with population and development issues noted the need to reposition family planning as a

priority in sustainable development. The representative of another organization dealing with the stabilization of commodity markets indicated that there was a need for a range of ground-level initiatives if developing countries were to benefit as suppliers. The representative of an organization dealing with Southern policy analysis and cooperation said that South-South cooperation was essential for negotiations with the North. One representative, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations and networks from the Global South attending the Conference, noted the need to deal urgently with the issues of aid, trade and debt and to stress human rights and gender issues in development policies and programmes.

IV. Report of the chairpersons of the two interactive round tables

1. The High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation took up agenda items 9 (a) and 9 (b), on the interactive round tables, on 2 December 2009 under the overall theme "Promotion of South-South cooperation for development".

2. The first round table, on strengthening the role of the United Nations system in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation, was opened by Gunnar Pálsson, the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations, and chaired by Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Participants heard from panellists representing FAO, the International Labour Organization, UNDP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and the United Nations Population Fund.

3. The first presenter recalled what he termed the "bad old days" of North-South technical assistance when transfers of technology often "died where they landed". Since then, however, South-South and, as he put it, "quietly, South-to-North" transfers were taking place, often involving what could be seen as "nuggets of knowledge from very humble beginnings". In that situation, UNDP, with 135 country offices and programmes in over 160 countries, had an important role to play, especially as capacity-building and transfer of knowledge were "second nature" to it. On issues of drought, land tenure, peer exchanges of experience and lessons learned, it had already been extremely useful, but there was no doubt that much better work could be done. One improvement would be to make fuller use of the institutions that UNDP often built and turned over to national authorities. One example was that of an institution dealing with water and sanitation technology in Morocco, which had become one of the best in Africa and could be a valuable South-South resource. The United Nations system could also learn from the private sector, which routinely succeeded in transmitting its products to every village. Over the past six years, UNDP had converted itself into a knowledge-based organization and, consequently, could underpin South-South cooperation with transfers of the best available knowledge.

4. The second presenter said that there were four kinds of gaps in the support offered by the United Nations to South-South cooperation, which was estimated to involve operations valued at between $12 billion and $13 billion per year, some 10 per cent of the world total. The gaps were conceptual, analytical, operational and political in nature. The South-South relationship was not akin to that between the

North and the South and needed to be conceptualized in another way. Analytically, there was a need to move from a largely anecdotal base of information if South-South cooperation was to be optimized. Only voluntary action by developing countries could close that gap. Operationally, there was a need to provide greater resources, especially through triangular cooperation. The political gap was the most significant and had to be bridged by developing countries in order to fill the three other gaps. The United Nations could help in that process through the forums offered by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The mainstreaming of South-South cooperation required a renewed effort within the United Nations system, and it was important to assist regional projects that received insufficient support from the North.

5. The third presenter pointed to the great need for increased South-South cooperation to deal with the dire situation of workers in developing countries. Of the global workforce, 16 per cent lived on less than $1 per day and 43 per cent on less than $2 a day. There were 66 million young people who were unemployed; the unemployment rate for young people was between double and triple that of adults. Women, migrants and some 218 million children were among the most vulnerable workers. Only 20 per cent of the global workforce enjoyed access to social security systems; half had no access at all. Improving workers' welfare, providing decent work and protecting workers from the negative impact of globalization had to be at the core of South-South development policy. The current global financial crisis had caused an employment crisis, with a spiking of unemployment rates worldwide. Most of the involvement of the presenter's agency with South-South cooperation was through Brazil and involved Latin American and some African countries; there was a need to broaden that engagement to all regions.

6. The fourth presenter spoke of the FAO food security programme, which had been launched at the 1996 World Food Summit and was framed by the effort to attain the Millennium Development Goal target of halving, by 2015, the global number of people who suffered from hunger. The challenge involved modernizing small-scale agriculture. In that regard, FAO operated a South-South cooperation programme that involved bringing experts and technicians from advanced developing countries to work with farmers in developing countries within the framework of national programmes for food security. Seventeen such programmes were being implemented and several others were in the pipeline. To date, 39 South-South cooperation agreements had been signed and over 1,400 experts and technicians fielded. Strategic alliances had been agreed with China in 2006 and Indonesia in 2009; others were under negotiation. There was a need to strengthen those programmes, as over 1 billion people were estimated to be living with hunger daily.

7. The fifth presenter noted the extremely diverse population situations in developing countries and the need to tackle each in a distinct manner within the framework of goals set by the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Declaration. Each Government had to decide on what it wanted to achieve in terms of demographics and what action to take in that regard. In addition to policy-level and operational support for Governments, the presenter's programme also worked with intergovernmental and non-governmental partners, mainly on issues of sexual and reproductive health. No one prescriptive policy for South-South cooperation in terms of population existed.

8. The sixth presenter said that South-South cooperation had been what he termed "hard-wired" into his programme from the outset. Reviewing the course of events over the past four decades — with the oil crisis and demands for a new international economic order in the 1970s, the debt crisis that had made the 1980s what he called the "lost decade for development", the move to regional integration in the 1990s and the enormous changes that had occurred in the current decade — he drew attention to the varied landscape with which developing countries had to contend. South-South cooperation had been mainly in trade while financial flows remained largely from the North to the South. South-South financial cooperation, however, began to gain momentum starting in the late 1990s and accelerated at the start of the twenty-first century. Underpinning that trend was the emergence of several large, dynamic economies in the South that served as pivotal countries in South-South development. As the North worked hard to overcome the current financial crisis, those large developing economies offered new opportunities for South-South cooperation. Southern policymakers had to manage the situation to gain maximum benefit for their development.

9. The second round table, on South-South and triangular cooperation for development: complementarities, specificities, challenges and opportunities, was opened by Abdullah M. Alsaidi, the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations, and chaired by Daniel Chuburu, the Ambassador of Argentina to Kenya.

10. The first presenter spoke on the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum and the IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation established in 2003. The Forum was primarily political, devoted to strengthening the position of those countries in multilateral forums and to contributing to the building of a new international architecture. It also served to catalyse relations among the three countries in a number of areas and engaged in specific cooperation projects with other developing countries. The Facility was sustained entirely by annual contributions of $1 million from each of the three countries and was used to support development projects in other developing countries. The Special Unit, hosted by UNDP, managed the Facility and acted as the secretariat of its board of directors. To date, the Facility had been used to support projects in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Haiti. New initiatives were under way in Burundi, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The aim was to support scalable and replicable projects based on the capabilities of the relevant countries and clearly aligned with the national priorities of the recipient countries. Furthermore, the projects were intended to be examples of best practices in moving towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

11. The second presenter, speaking on behalf of the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency, said that since 2007, the programme of work of his agency had been within an overall strategic framework. Between 2001 and 2007, its official development assistance had tripled and currently stood at $172 million. For the past 30 years, its programme had been mostly directed to neighbouring countries but had currently expanded beyond the region. Its priority areas were agriculture, public health and education. It had been cooperating with a developed country since 1973 on a third-country training programme and with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation since the 1980s. Triangular cooperation required dialogue and joint action among the participating countries on all aspects, from financing to execution, monitoring and evaluation.

12. The third presenter spoke of Japan's experience in triangular cooperation, which had begun three decades ago, long before the term itself had been coined. Projects involving communications and the development of capacity to deal with the spread of foot and mouth disease among cattle had been initiated in the South Pacific islands. That had happened not because of Japanese policy but because those involved in dealing with problems on the ground were passionate about their work and had sought help. The Japan International Cooperation Agency had stepped in to support their work. The driving force of South-South cooperation was not political but came from the passions of those directly involved in development work. Since then, the Agency had been engaged in significant triangular cooperation, beginning with the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Triangular cooperation was not a great part of South-South cooperation but was important nonetheless. The Agency engagement in that modality reflected either historical linkages with the developing countries involved or a policy decision to explore new fields and frameworks. An excellent example of the latter was the 20-year record of Japan's cooperation with Brazil in supporting the development of arid areas in Mozambique that were very similar to the South American *cerrado*.

13. The fourth presenter said that the previous presentations had demonstrated that South-South cooperation worked and that triangular cooperation improved it. Both South-South and triangular cooperation needed to be within the framework of a larger policy framework shaped by the priorities of developing countries. Food, energy and other crises had long-term development implications that needed policy responses. That required the strengthening of the multilateral framework of South-South cooperation such as the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Movement and regional and interregional organizations. Effective South-South policy coordination was essential to cooperating with the North. On such issues as climate change, the Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks and the effort to improve the technology transfer framework under the World Intellectual Property Organization, developing countries had to be well prepared with policy analyses and proposals. In undertaking consultations with the North on solutions beneficial to all, the United Nations was essential as were Southern capacities in research and policy analysis.

V. Attendance and organizational matters

A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, in accordance with General Assembly resolution A/64/1. The Conference held five plenary meetings and two interactive round tables.

B. Attendance

2. The following States and the European Community were represented at the Conference: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's

Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3. Others attending the Conference on the basis of standing invitations were: the Permanent Observer of Palestine.

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the Conference: the African Union, the Common Fund for Commodities, the European Community, the International Organization for Migration, Partners in Population and Development, and the South Centre.

5. Other entities in attendance were the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

6. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were represented at the Conference: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization.

C. Officers of the Conference

7. The President of the Conference was Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya of Kenya.

8. The Vice-Presidents of the Conference were: Benin, Morocco, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Sweden.

9. Members of the Credentials Committee of the Conference were: Brazil, China, Jamaica, Philippines, Russian Federation, Spain, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Zambia.

10. Raymond Landveld of Suriname was Rapporteur-General of the Conference.

D. Organization of work

11. At its first meeting, on 1 December, the Conference agreed on the organization of its work as contained in document A/64/507 and Corr.1. It decided to hold two interactive round-table discussions exploring the overall theme "Promotion of South-South cooperation for development". The first round table, on 2 December, would focus on "Strengthening the role of the United Nations system in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation". The second round table, on 3 December, would deal with "South-South and triangular cooperation for development: complementarities, specificities, challenges and opportunities".

E. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

12. Under rule 4 of its rules of procedure, the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, at its 1st meeting, on 1 December, appointed a Credentials Committee of nine members, with its composition based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-fourth session.

13. The Committee, comprising Brazil, China, Jamaica, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia, held one meeting, on 2 December 2009.

14. The Credentials Committee unanimously elected Anna Maria Sampaio Fernandes (Brazil) as Chair.

15. The Committee had before it a credentials table dated 2 December 2009 on the credentials of representatives of States and the European Community to the Conference. A representative of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement relating to the table and memorandum in which, among other things, he updated the table and the memorandum to indicate credentials and communications received subsequent to their preparation.

16. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, formal credentials of representatives to the Conference, in the form required by rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, had been received as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee from the following 17 States and the European Community: Botswana, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, Holy See, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, United States, Viet Nam, Zambia.

17. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, information concerning the appointment of representatives of States to the Conference had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, by means of a cable or a telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the mission concerned, by the following 75 States: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe.

18. As noted in paragraph 3 of the memorandum and in the statement relating thereto, the following 101 States had not, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, formally communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations any information regarding their representatives to the Conference:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu.

19. The Committee decided to accept the credentials of the representatives of all States listed in the above-mentioned memorandum and the statement relating thereto and the European Community, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the States referred to in the report (A/CONF.215/L.2) would be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as soon as possible.

20. The Committee also decided to accept the credentials submitted for the representatives of the States and of the European Community referred to in the above-mentioned memorandum of the Secretariat. The Committee decided without a vote to recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft resolution (A/CONF.215/L.1) approving its report.

21. On 3 December, at the 5th meeting of the Conference, the representative of Brazil, as chairman of the Credentials Committee, presented its report (A/CONF.215/L.2). The Conference took note of the report of the Credentials Committee, concluding consideration of the matter.

VI. Consideration and adoption of the draft outcome document of the Conference

1. On 3 December 2009, at its 5th meeting, the Conference received the draft Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which was contained in document A/CONF.215/1. The draft outcome document was introduced by the co-facilitators of the Conference, Ambassador Abdullah Al-Saidi of Yemen and Ambassador Gunnar Pálsson of Iceland. The President of the Conference also made a statement.

2. The Conference had before it a draft resolution on the outcome document (A/CONF.215/L.1). The outcome document was adopted by acclamation. The Conference adopted draft resolution A/CONF.215/L.1 by which the Conference recommended that the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, endorse the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, thus concluding consideration of the item (for the text of the draft resolution, see chap. I, resolution 1).

VII. Adoption of the report of the Conference

1. At the 5th meeting of the Conference, on 3 December, the Rapporteur-General introduced the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.215/L.3). The Conference agreed that delegations could submit amendments and/or revisions to the Rapporteur-General by 12 December, after which he would finalize the report, in conformity with the practice of the United Nations, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. The Conference then adopted the report by acclamation, concluding consideration of the item.

VIII. Closure of the Conference

1. At the 5th meeting of the Conference, on 3 December 2009, the Vice-President of Kenya, Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, made a statement.

2. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, Assistant Administrator of UNDP; and Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. Statements were also made by the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Sweden on behalf of the European Union, and India on behalf of the Asian Group.

3. Also at the 5th meeting, the President of the Conference made a statement and brought the proceedings to a close.

Annex

List of documents before the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

Symbol	*Title or description*
A/64/504	Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of South-South cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective
A/64/507 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the provisional agenda and organization of work of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, Nairobi, 1-3 December 2009
A/641/L.1	High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation: draft resolution submitted by Qatar
A/641/L.1/Add.1	High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation: draft resolution: addendum
A/CONF.215/1	Outcome document: High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
A/CONF.215/L.1	Draft resolution submitted on the recommendation of the Conference
A/CONF.215/L.2	Report of the Credentials Committee on the credentials of representatives to the Conference